

Claim Rejections

Claims 1-16 were rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph as failing to comply with the written description requirements. The Applicant respectfully traverses and will address the Examiner's concerns herein.

- The Examiner states he could find no support for the newly claimed "sintering a high-z powder and glass powder mixture to form a first collimator tube". Respectfully, the Applicant traverses this rejection. The Specification as filed in paragraph 18 clearly states that tungsten powder (a well known and understood high-z material) can be sintered in with glass powder to form a high-z glass tube. It is not, despite assertions otherwise, confusing as to whether the sintering results in powder or uses powder as an ingredient. As anyone skilled in the art is well aware, sintering is a process of forming solid objects FROM powder. The above discussion in the specification would be well understood by anyone with any skill in the art that what was described was a high-z glass tube formed by sintering glass powder and a high-z powder into a high-z glass tube.
- The Examiner notes there is no discussion of "mixture" or "high-z powder" in the specification. On the contrary, as discussed above there was very much a clear discussion of a mixture of powders in paragraph 18. Paragraph 18 lays the foundation clearly for one skilled in the art. It describes a collimator tube formed of high-z glass. It then states that the ingredients of that glass include any of a list of metals well understood by anyone in the art to be high-z materials. Finally, that sentence is followed by one explaining that a high-z metal powder may be sintered in with glass powder. Only the most semantically biased reading of the above paragraph would result in confusion. Anyone with a modicum of skill in the art would instantaneously understand that a high-z glass tube may include high-z metals and may be formed by sintering glass powder together with the metal powder. The Applicant submits that rote formality may be interfering with the ability to perceive the specification as would be understood by any material science engineer.
- The Examiner has failed to provide any support for his assertion that glass powder and tungsten powder cannot be sintered into a glass tube as claimed. His sole basis is that these two ingredients (glass and tungsten) are taught by MacCragh to make cerment. The Applicant respectfully is confused at this rejection. Cerment is by definition a mixture of ceramic and metal fused together. Glass is considered a

ceramic, but only one of many. It is still common in the art to refer to glass composites and glass mixtures that may be also called cerment as glass. Furthermore, not all mixtures of glass and tungsten would even be considered cerment. Cerment is commonly used to refer to ceramics utilized in high strength, high temperature applications. Low percentages of tungsten utilized within a glass base solely to influence high-z properties are referred to as high-z glass, not cerment. One need only do a search on high-z glass for it to become apparent that the product is referred to as glass and not cerment. The Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration.

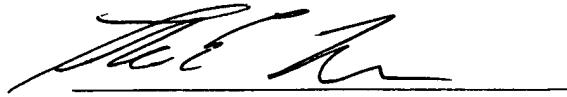
- With regard to the other species not specified, paragraph 18 clearly recites a wide plurality of known high-z materials outside tungsten from which anyone reading the specification would clearly understand.
- With regard to claim 5, the Applicant respectfully submits a proposed amendment clarifying that powders are the same powder.

The Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration.

With this response, it is respectfully submitted that all rejections and objections of record have been overcome and that the case is in condition for examination on the merits.

Should the Examiner have any questions or comments, he is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



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Dated: February 23, 2006